

WYCOMBE Wanderers regained some of the form which gave them seven straight wins at the end of last season when they visited Harrow Borough on Monday evening.

The 1-1 draw they gained saw Tony Price score the Blues' first Berger Isthmian League goal of the season and the team win their first point. This followed their disappointing 2-0 defeat when they entertained Leytonstone / Ilford on the opening day of the season.

From the outset Wanderers looked a different team. In fact, with four changes they were slightly different. Paul Birdseye returned to the defence following his reserve team match on Saturday as did Keith Mead, who did not play at all at the weekend. Tony Price, who added a bit of speed to the attack after coming on as substitute on Saturday started the match in preference to Paul Miles, and Bobby Dell came in for Jimmy Jacobs.

Blues started well. Terry Glynn shot wide when a cross would have been preferable and then Bobby Dell found Mick Holifield well, only to see Holifield's centre well taken by the keeper.

Trouble

A terrible back-pass from George Borg had Gary Lester in all sorts of trouble in the 13th minute. But the danger ended when a Harrow player blasted the ball wide.

Harrow tried to keep up the pressure but Wycombe had the edge in midfield which gave them territorial advantage. In the 21st minute Steve Long won the ball well on the right and when he crossed into the middle the ball fell to Dell. He took time to aim his shot, but as Harrow players closed in he shot wide.

Nine minutes later Price made a fine run through the middle of the defence, but again the finishing touch was not there and his shot was weak and wide.

Another good Wycombe move ended with a wild shot. From a throw-in the ball was worked across the field between Glynn, Holifield and Price before reaching Dell who fired over.

Then Wycombe failed to clear a Harrow break properly, and after a scramble conceded a corner. The kick, taken by Eddie Stein, eluded Lester and a couple of defenders before curling straight in. Just to make sure Peter Sharratt took it further into the net.

The goal came against the run of play and left Wycombe with an uphill task in the

second half. However, they stuck to their job well and gained their reward in the 75th minute with a brilliant goal from Price. A half cleared free kick fell to him on the edge of the 18 yard area and he hammered the ball straight past Les Currell in goal.

Paul Miles, who came on for the ineffective Glynn in the 73rd minute made a brilliant run in the closing minutes. He beat two players before crossing but there was

no one there to meet it.

Earlier in the half, as Wycombe became more frustrated, Borg was booked for something he said to the referee. He was also shown the yellow card on Saturday.

Harrow Borough: L. Currell, R. Metz, G. Lidster, F. Seward, D. Brown, T. O'Driscoll, H. Manoe, P. Sharratt, D. Pearce, E. Stein, D. Harris. Sub: R. Halder (not used).

Wycombe: G. Lester, P. Birdseye, G. Borg, B. Davis, K. Mead, H. Kennedy, B. Dell, T. Price, S. Long, T. Glynn (sub P. Miles 73 mins), M. Holifield.

Referee: E. Griffiths (Edmonton). Half-time 1-0. Scorers — Harrow: Stein 40 mins, Wycombe: Price 75 mins.

Blues Reserves set the pace

Farnborough Res 2, Wycombe Res 3

PLAYING in their first game in the Suburban League, Wycombe Reserves came away from Farnborough with two points in a fine 2-3 win played on a perfect flat pitch.

Wycombe's first dangerous move fell to Paul West but he was twice caught off-side. Andy Hunt clashed with the home keeper after eight minutes and took a knock which forced him to leave the field for treatment.

Corner

The Farnborough keeper gave away a corner in the 15th minute after pressure from Paul Birdseye, Elvis Jack and Steve Hardwick combined well in midfield with Hardwick letting fly with a shot from outside the area. The shot along the ground was well saved by Hammond in the home goal and another good save came from him after a West free kick.

Farnborough had a break and penetrated the Wycombe half. Aiken found himself with the goal at his mercy but blasted his shot wide.

Straight from the goalkick Dell gathered the ball and he rounded his man to let fly with a good shot to put Wycombe ahead after 30 minutes.

Jack went close soon after the goal and it was only a brilliant save by the home keeper that stopped Wycombe going two up. Farnborough came close to equalising just before half time but Tim Lee cleared off the line when Chris Way was beaten.

The start of the second half was end to end play with long goal-kicks from both keepers. Farnborough came into the game more with

Wycombe flagging in the heat of the afternoon.

Wycombe had two players injured at one time but both were soon back in action. In the 63rd minute Glover came on for Kirkham and he soon settled down and produced some good touches.

In the 73rd minute Glover picked up a pass on the right and let fly from 35 yards out to make it 2-0 to Wycombe. Straight from the kick-off Farnborough put together a string of passes with a final cross being headed past Way by Bosanko to make it 1-2.

Farnborough then began to bring their midfield into the game but it was good work by Lee who ran down the right wing and sent over a good cross which was headed home by Andy Hunt that put Wycombe 1-3 ahead in the 83rd minute.

The pressure was put on Wycombe by the home side at this stage and Farnborough were awarded a penalty when a player tripped in the area. Aiken took the spot-kick but Way was adjudged to have moved when the penalty hit the upright.

At the second attempt Farnborough scored and made it 2-3. The home side kept up the pressure to force the equaliser but Wycombe held out marshalled well by Paul Birdseye throughout.

Wycombe: C. Way (Capt), Lee, Daley, Birdseye, Royston, Dell, Kirkham (sub Glover 63 mins), Hardwick, Hunt, West, Jack. Sub: Collier.

Cautions up

LAST season saw an increase in the number of players cautioned in the Berks and Bucks Football Association area. The figure was 3,824 compared with 3,618 the previous years, but sending offs were down 25 to 850.